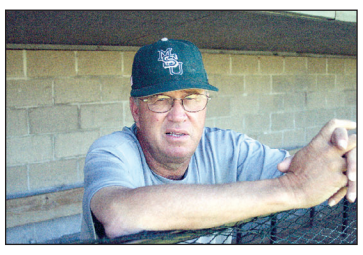
MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY — JOPLIN

THE CHART



800TH WIN

Coach Turner nears a personal milestone. *Page 10*

SENIOR ART

Students create some crazy art displayed at Spiva. *Page 6*

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2004 WWW.THECHARTONLINE.COM VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 23

Hosting delights family

BY PHILIP MARTIN
Executive Editor

The family gathered around the gate at the airport, anticipating the arrival of the plane.

The plane touched down and taxied to the gate. The family members could barely control themselves; the time they were waiting for finally arrived. The passengers started exiting; at first they didn't see her. Then, she walked out and met her new family. The excitement in the air, along with the laughing and loud voices only means one thing — it's time to be a host family for a competitor in the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition.

Mike and Elaine Corwin, residents of Neosho, are one of the host families for the competition. The contestant they are hosting is 17-year-old Soo Yeon Cho, from Clarksville, Md. This is not anything new to the Corwin's or Cho. Two years ago, the Corwin's were the host family for Cho and say they enjoy being hosts.

"It's fun [being a host family], you get to meet somebody who's usually foreign," Elaine said.

She said there are upsides to being hosts to a contestant.

"You get to listen to some great music," Elaine said. "It's nerve wracking watching them compete, because you want them to do so well."

With a contestant staying in their house the Corwin's said it changes their daily routine, not for worse but for better.

TURN TO **FAMILY**, PAGE 12

Junior Finalists

Matthew Graybil
Si-Chen Ma
Soo Yeon Cho
Wenbin Jin
Chenyang Xu

New officer encourages involvement

BY NATE BILLINGS
International Editor

Newly-elected Student Senate President Eric Ducommun is willing to take the position and bring Senate into a new year.

The sophomore Spanish major came to Missouri Southern for a couple of reasons, but one stands out in particular.

Eric Ducommun
New Student Senate President

"I wanted to study Spanish, and my decision was based on how well the study abroad program is here," Ducommun said.

Ducommun came from Central Christian College in Moberly, Mo.

After transferring, he became active in several organizations, such as Senate, International Club and Koinonia.

Ducommun also serves as president of Koinonia as well.

"He's gained valuable experience as president," said Adam Griffin, co-adviser to Senate.

Griffin said the experience to be Senate president is hard to come by.

"You just have to step in and do it," he said.

Ducommun also served on several committees during his role as a senator. He is working with the scholarship committee to develop part of the Spencer-Bartlett award.

Griffin said Ducommun is one of the more active members of Senate.

"I think I have taken advantage of the opportunities to join several organizations on campus," Ducommun said.

He said the organizations have helped him during his academic career.

TURN TO **PRESIDENT**, PAGE 2

Crazy Medicine

Dr. Hunter "Patch" Adams mingled with the crowd, including Zach Odem, outgoing Student Senate president, second from left, before beginning his lecture April 19.

Brandi Boulware/ The Chart

Activist doctor, clown inspires capacity crowd with 'love strategy'

BY T.J. GERLACH
Managing Editor

Inspiring many people and annoying some others with government criticism, Dr. Hunter "Patch" Adams spoke April 19 in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center.

Julie Blackford, director of student activities, said this was the Campus Activities Board's biggest lecture since she has been at Southern. More than 1,100 people attended the lecture.

Patch, who attended medical school from 1967-1972, has been lecturing for about 20 years. During that time he has been working on the Gesundheit Institute, a hospital that, once completed, will offer its services free to the public.

The Gesundheit Institute is nearing completion at its site in southern West Virginia, the poorest state for health care. Patch said he thinks he will receive enough money shortly to complete the complex. He said he knows someone who is near death and has promised to leave his money to the Institute.

Patch said he has been in medicine for 33 years and has never carried malpractice insurance nor ever prescribed any drugs.

"I don't hate anyone that much," he said.

Patch said if a patient comes to see him the first thing he does is interview the patient for four hours.

"I do it for me," Patch said. "I want to know the person; I want to add that person to my life."

He said no one can know anyone in the seven-and-a-half minute interview most doctors do with their patients.

Patch uses treatments that are not considered normal in the medical industry. For example, if a patient comes to him suffering from depression, Patch said he will handcuff the patent to him and walk around with him or her. Patch said the area where his hospital is has "land mines," areas where happy objects are placed.

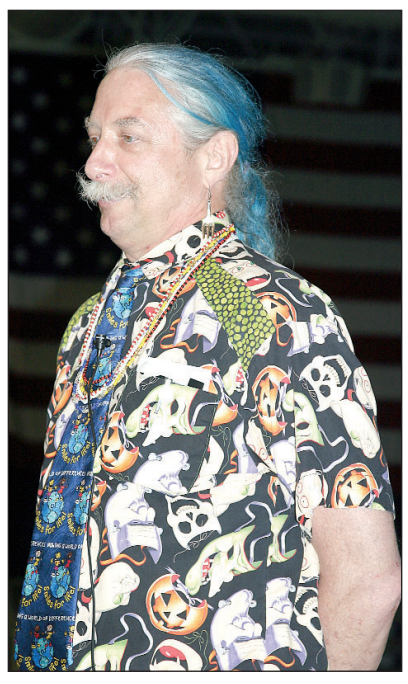
Patch said he will take depressed people to the land mines, and there may be puppies there. When the patient starts playing with the puppies, Patch asks the patient if that is a depressing moment. He also said he may take the patient to a morgue, find a dead body, slap it and ask the patient if he or she would rather be where the corpse is.

Patch said his lecture, titled "What is Your Love Strategy?" was designed as a workshop after 9-11. He said he called CNN several times trying to have the network put him on with a love strategy as a counter to war.

Patch began the lecture with two activities from his workshop. The first activity had everybody hug someone they did not come with for as long as possible or until he told them to stop. The second activity had everybody place their hands on the head of a different person and repeatedly say "I love you" to them.

The lecture focused on how most people in the world understand love is the most important thing in the world, but how there is not a single class on the "verbing of love" and

TURN TO **PATCH**, PAGE 8



Brandi Boulware/The Chart

Patch has been in medicine for 33 years. in that time, he has never prescribed medications or carried malpractice insurance. Patch also travels the world taking his unique approach to medicine to refugee camps and third-world hospitals.

Longest-serving Board member says 'goodbye'

BY JERRY MANTER
Editor-in-Chief

After more than 15 years of service on Missouri Southern's Board of Governors, Glenn Wilson is now ready to say "goodbye."

"I think it was time for me to go," Wilson said. "Having new people on the Board will be very helpful."

Wilson was first appointed a Board position in 1978. He's worked with all three of Southern's presidents. Wilson said he's worked hard to establish the University as a quality institution. One of his main goals has always been to try to keep tuition affordable for students.

"I felt that if I was on the Board we could keep the cost low and keep the University affordable to local people," Wilson said. "I'd like for every person in the area to get a college education."

April 15 was Wilson's last Board meeting. Although there was plenty of business to take care of, the meeting was still packed full of emotions.

"I wanted to thank the people and the administration for what we've been able to accomplish," he said.

TURN TO **WILSON**, PAGE 2

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WEEKEND OUTLOOK

SATURDAY

Showers

High: 68
Low: 51

SUNDAY

Mostly Sunny

High: 72
Low: 47

ONLINE

Click on the online edition of *The Chart* at www.thechartonline.com

Question of the week:
Why do you think gas prices are rising?

WILSON:

From Page 1

While Wilson served on the Board, he said the biggest challenge for him was to see the transition from a state college to a university.

It took several years, but he said he was glad to see it happen.

"The big challenge was getting the status that we deserved," Wilson said.

Dr. Charles McGinty, Board president, said he's enjoyed the time he's had working with Wilson. McGinty and Wilson almost always sat next to each other at all of the Board meetings.

"The wisdom that he had to share was his strong suit," McGinty said.

"He's just a great guy."

McGinty said he's been impressed with Wilson and all the dedication he's brought to Southern and the surrounding communities.

"He's dedicated a great part of his adult life with helping higher education," McGinty said.

Now that Wilson no longer has a seat on the Board, he said he hopes a better variety of people will serve on the Board.

"This will give the Board more diversity," Wilson said.

Wilson said if there's any advice he would give to future Board members it would be for them to be patient.

"Being on the Board takes time," Wilson said.

"I hope the people who get appointed will be able to give the time that's necessary and help it grow."

PRESIDENT:

From Page 1

"You get to meet other people instead of limiting yourself to the people around you," he said.

Ducommun wants to see Senate possibly become more active with the students. He would also like to see the students become involved with events at Southern.

Doug Carnahan, dean of students and adviser to Senate, said he is optimistic about Ducommun's role.

"We've checked him out, and we know he's involved around campus," Carnahan said. "He'll move Senate forward."

During the summer, Ducommun will be on call for anything involving the Senate officers.

However, for one month, he will be studying biology through Southern in Costa Rica.

On top of his roles in other organizations, Ducommun is preparing for a possible 20-credit-hour semester.

Before he officially pounds the gavel and opens a Senate meeting, Ducommun would like to give students some advice.

"Get more involved," he said. "You'll enjoy your education more, and it will be more meaningful to you."

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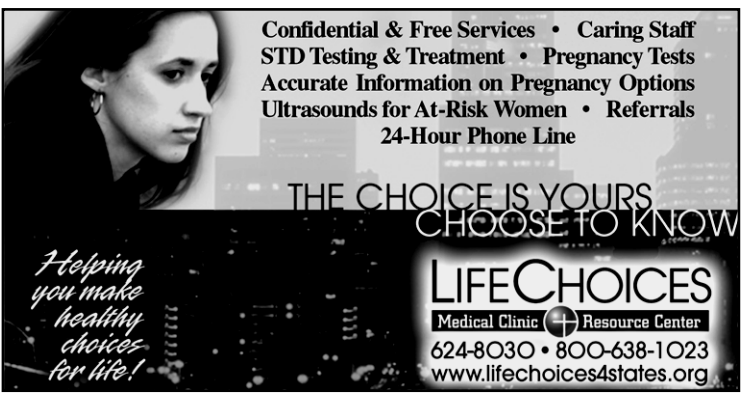
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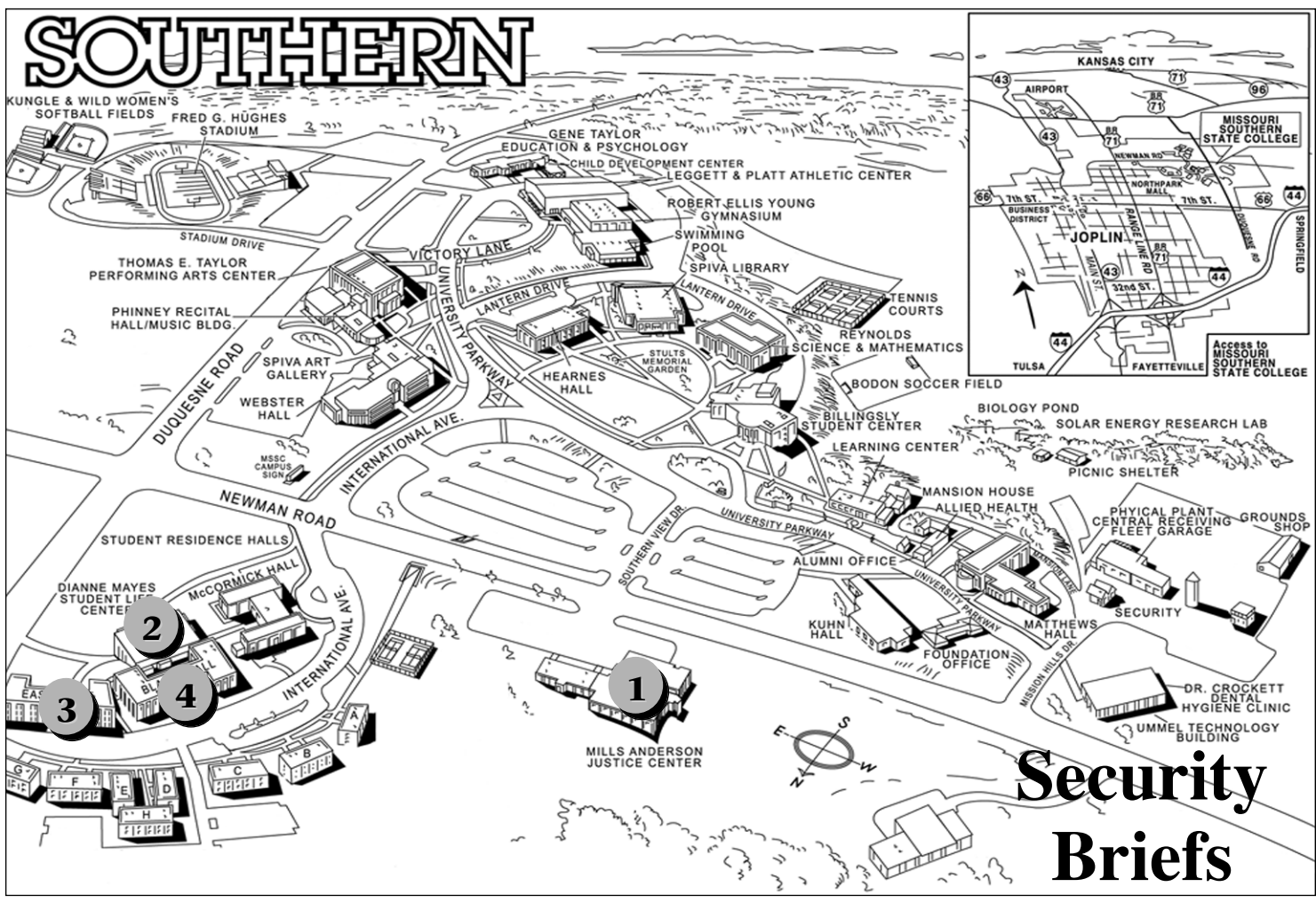

Security Briefs

Extinguisher starts alarm, baffles DPS

1 Property Destruction

4/17/2004

12:10 p.m.

DPS received a call from a custodian who stated a window had been broken in the Anderson Justice Center auditorium. A man called stating his 3-year-old son had thrown a rock through the window.

He was wondering who would pay for the window, since they were attending Creative Adventures. DPS advised him someone from Missouri Southern would contact him and let him know the details of the situation.

2 Information

4/17/2004

5:30 p.m.

DPS received a call from an S.A. stating there was a problem in the Student Life Center. The S.A. said a student was causing a disturbance in the cafeteria. The student was closing all the shades and had several plates of food and glasses of water. Witnesses saw him put food in the microwave and sit on top of a table and then under it.

When DPS questioned him, the student stated he did not like being disturbed while eating. DPS then contacted JPD. The police arrived and questioned the student. The student would not answer, and the police left. The student was asked to leave and he did.

3 Fire Alarm

4/18/2004

6:26 a.m.

As DPS was unlocking East Hall, the officer heard an alarm coming from the west hallway on the first floor. DPS checked the alarm status in the office which gave a normal status.

DPS then located the source of the alarm. The officer found the alarm coming from a fire extinguisher box. He reset the switch in the box so the next time the door was opened the alarm would sound. The box did not appear to be damaged and the pressure in the fire extinguisher was in the normal range. The officer was unable to determine if the alarm had been set by someone or set itself off.

4 Theft

4/19/2004

11:50 p.m.

DPS was called to Blaine Hall in reference to a missing bicycle.

A student said he discovered his bicycle was missing from the bike racks and the last time he saw it was at 9:45 a.m. April 16. The student had locked the bicycle to the rack with a chain, which is also missing. DPS advised the student to make a report with the Joplin Police Department.

Security briefs are compiled from Missouri Southern Department of Public Safety reports.

Campus Calendar

Debate team places sixth during national championship tourney

The Missouri Southern Speech and Debate Squad competed April 14-20 in the NFA National Championships at Western Illinois University. There were 87 nationally qualified debaters from 74 schools representing 28 states.

On April 18, Wes Carrillo, junior political science major, and Eric Crinnian, freshman undecided major, qualified for elimination double octo-finals (round of 32).

Carrillo and Crinnian both lost in the round of 16. Carrillo also won an individual speaker award of fifth place in the nation in Lincoln-Douglas debate.

The team placed sixth nationally in the overall debate sweepstakes. The team's finish will help build on next year's debate squad as four members return in the fall semester. The Southern forensic season is now over.

Joplin Chamber of Commerce hosts prayer breakfast at OCC

The Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a National Day of Prayer Breakfast from 6:30-7:30 a.m. May 6 in the Ozark Christian College multi-purpose building. Local elected officials will be in attendance as the chamber honors, prays and supports their efforts as well as the president and other national leaders.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. The breakfast is complimentary, but those interested must RSVP by April 29. For information contact the the chamber at 624-1996 or via e-mail at jjohnosn@joplincc.com

Smith returns for tournament, faculty receive $50 discounts

Rod Smith, Missouri Southern alumnus and pro-football star, will return for a four-man scramble golf tournament on April 30 at Briarbook Golf & Country Club.

Playing slots are $150 per player, however, all Southern faculty/staff will receive a $50 discount. If interested please fill out the registration form available in PDF format at www.mssu.edu/accents/accents2004/accentsmssugolf.pdf and fax it to 625-9397.

The tournament is sponsored by TNT Sports and the Northpark Mall. Smith will sign autographs from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at TNT Sports.

For information contact Kevin Greim at 625-3075 or Robert Corn at 625-9330.

Lead problem in Picher, Okla., topic for public forum, Monday

The Native American Student Association, the Student Ecolonomics Association, with proceeds from the Campus Activities Board and Student Senate, will be sponsoring a public forum on Picher to celebrate Earth Day.

The event will start at 6:30 p.m. and will last until 9 p.m. Monday at the University Java coffee shop on the first floor of the Spiva Library. The evening will begin with a concert by Kafara, in front of the flag pole at 6:30 p.m. After the concert, the forum will start in the coffee shop.

Three speakers will discuss lead and health, how the lead got to Picher and the future of Picher.

Free coffee and cookies will be provided.

Southern celebrates Earth Day with dunking of professors

Missouri Southern's Earth Day celebration will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday on the oval. There will be more than 20 booths that cover areas like recycling, health and fitness, and on-campus organizations. There will also be a swap table, Native American dancers, Native American wood carvers and a dunk tank.

The dunk tank will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The instructors that are willing to be dunked are Dr. Michael Kennedy, assistant professor of environmental health; Michael Fletcher, assistant professor of biology; Dr. Michael Garoutte, associate professor of chemistry; Dr. Tom Simpson, associate professor of political science; and Dr. Nii Abrahams, assistant professor of economics. There will also be other instructors in the dunk tank.

Those instructors participating will be wearing T-shirts advertising their time in the dunk tank. The dunk tank is sponsored by the Student Ecolonomics Association.

The SEA and the Native American Students Association are sponsors, with proceeds from the CAB and Senate.

International Club sells T-shirts, shirts available across campus

The International Club is selling T-shirts for $10.

Shirts can be picked up from Dr. John Lewis, associate professor of business; Linda Perkins, secretary of the communications department; or Trish Udell, adjunct instructor with the Institute of International Studies.

CORRECTION: In the April 9 issue of *The Chart* Bob Oldt was mistakenly identified as Bob Holde on page 5.

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Board fights off financial losses during meeting

BY T.J. GERLACH
Managing Editor

As the post offices were closing and this year's tax season came to an end, the Missouri Southern Board of Governors began its April 15 meeting.

A discussion concerning Southern's employee health care provider dominated 45 minutes of the 75-minute meeting.

Dwight Douglas, Board member, said the Board should try to help fight some of Southern's recent financial losses by receiving bids from different health care providers. He said not receiving bids would not be responsible handling of public funds.

"I've done city work," Douglas said. "[I have] seen cities do this and save lots of money."

Dr. Teri Agee, vice president for business affairs, said the University belongs to a health care consortium consisting of five other institutions in Missouri. The consortium receives bids as a group for health care, dental, vision, long-term care and long-term disability coverage.

The consortium consists of Southeast Missouri State University, Truman State University, Central Missouri State University, Missouri Western State College and Harris-Stowe State College.

Douglas said the other institutions in the consortium are not in the Joplin market so health care costs covering only the Joplin market may be lower than in other markets.

University President Julio León said bidding as a consortium benefits each member because if one institution has a "bad year" then its health care costs cannot be highly affected if it is part of the consortium.

Bidding as a consortium means there will be more lives insured under the health care plans, which reduces costs, León said.

"Every public entity out there has been bidding health care," Douglas said. "I just don't

TURN TO **MEETING**, PAGE 8

Name change causes problems in financial aid

BY JESSICA MACINTOSH
Online Editor

With the name change, problems have arisen.

In the financial aid department, the name change has not been recognized.

"North Central Accrediting Association has not certified the college for master's programs in the name change," said James Gilbert, director of student financial assistance.

Gilbert said once the Association gives Southern certification, the University would then be notified of the name change and graduate programs certification.

"Once we get that information, then in financial aid, I have to file a new application to participate with the federal aid programs under the new name and for those graduate programs," Gilbert said.

Gilbert said the last time he applied it took seven months from application to denial. Gilbert applied in September after the legislature gave Southern the official notification about the name change. He said it was denied in February.

Another problem with the name change is in the federal software.

"If the name change is not certified by that point in time, then on the federal software where the name is embedded, it will still say Missouri Southern State College," Gilbert said, "and then in the text where we can change anything, it will say Missouri Southern State University."

The software will have both names until Southern can officially become certified by the Department of Education and the federal government changes the software, Gilbert said.

As soon as the Association has certified the University, the president or vice president will notify Gilbert. He said he would then fill out another application to participate, which would take six or seven months.

"Once that is approved, the Department of Education will send us information saying that it is approved," he said.

Then the software will take another year to have the name change officially changed, Gilbert said.

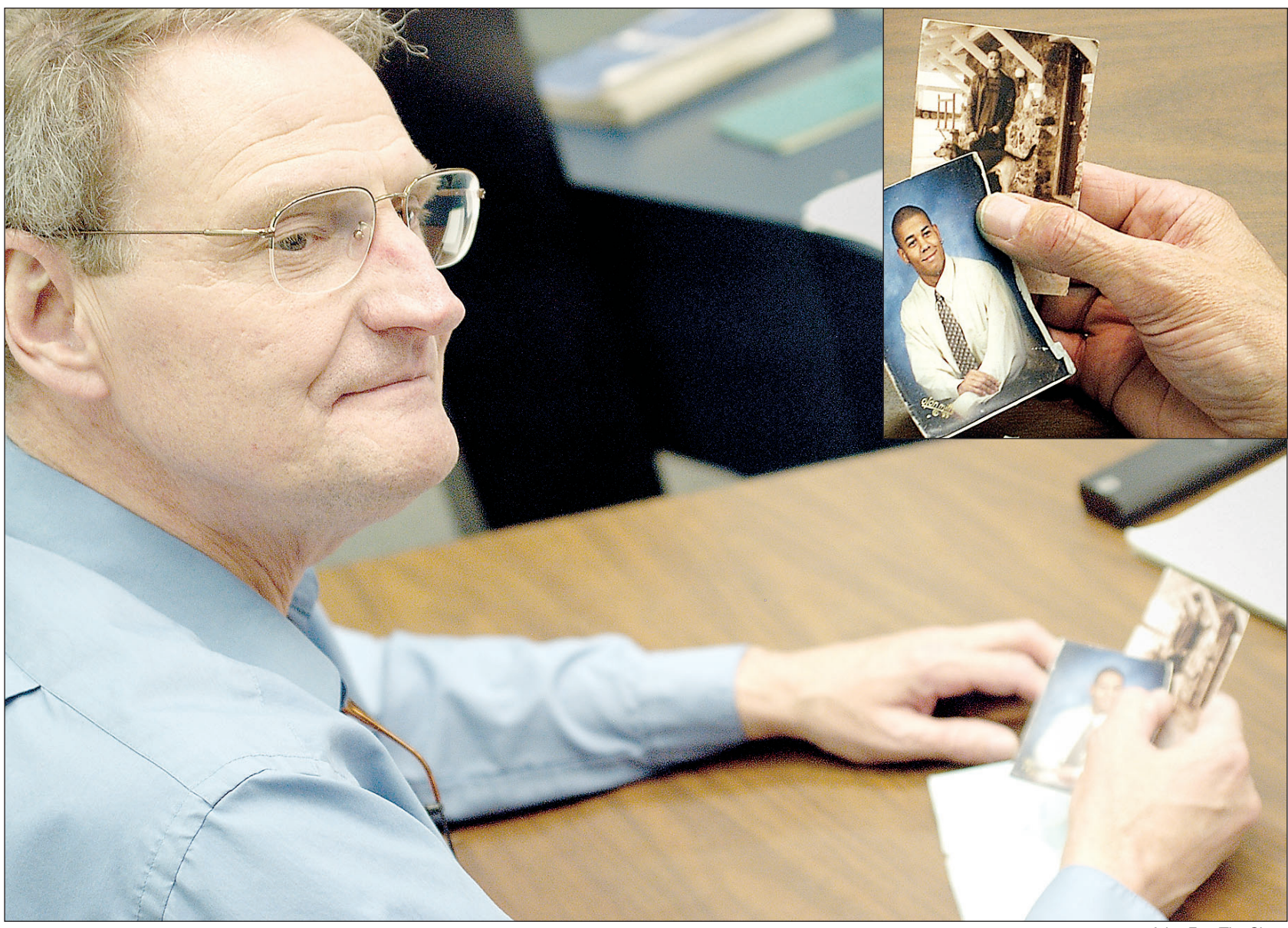
"It has to be done, and it's going to be done that way," he said. "One can't instantaneously change one's name and be called something else when you deal with several agencies, particularly the federal government."

Another problem that has arisen with the name change is with the e-mail system.

Steve Earney, assistant vice president for information services, sent out a sheet six months before the name change occurred, explaining

TURN TO **NAME**, PAGE 8

Love From Afar



AdamFast/The Chart

Pictures are worth a thousand memories. (Above) V.A. Christensen, associate professor of art, looks over a photo of his son, Tyler Christensen. Christensen says he tries to not watch the news as it is not specific about the war. "No news is good news," he said.

Hope stays home as loved ones go to Iraq

BY MONIQUE JAMERSON
Staff Writer

War's sting has been felt at Missouri Southern.

V.A. Christensen, associate professor of art, is the father of Tyler Christensen, 22, who was called to duty in February 2003 and left in May 2003 to fight in Iraq.

Christensen said he was disappointed when his son first told him he had to leave.

"Tyler was getting back on track, he was doing well in college, and I felt that this [the war] would cause an interruption," Christensen said.

Before being called to duty, Tyler was a student at Southern and his dream was to play college football.

"I hope when Tyler returns, he will be able to pick up where he left off," he said.

Christensen and his son keep in touch through telephone conversations and e-mails, but not too often.

"The moment we hang up the telephone or log off the computer, I never know how he is doing," he said. "I guess I operate on no news is good news."

Christensen said he tries not to watch the news, because it is not specific about the war in Iraq.

Tyler is due back home in May, but in the last conversation Christensen and his son had, Tyler told him he would be there longer than planned.

"I have no idea when Tyler will return, but I miss my son, and I am ready for him to come home," Christensen said.

Christensen said it's hard enough on parents to deal with their child being in war, but he couldn't imagine what it would be like for a soldier to have to leave his wife and children behind.

"I think Tyler is grateful he didn't have to deal with that," he said.

Since Tyler has been gone, Christensen said he has been dealing with stress that has been building up over a period of time.

"With all of the stress, I suddenly realize I am dealing with a lot," Christensen said.

He said he knows his son is doing well in Iraq, because Tyler is physically and psychologically what a soldier should be.

"I trust him with my life," Christensen said.

"If you were wanting someone to stand back-to-back with you, Tyler would be the one."

Christen Jones, junior biology/ pre-veterinary major said her boyfriend, Jared Fielding, 24, has been in Iraq since the beginning of March 2004.

Fielding has been in the Marines for six years and going to war is something he has always wanted to do.

"When Jared first told me that he was leaving to fight in Iraq, it was like a slap in the face," Jones said.

Jones said it is hard dealing with him being gone, but she supports him.

"I don't want Jared over there but I support him and the other troops," Jones said.

Jones and her boyfriend, like Christensen and his son, spend some time talking on the telephone and e-mailing each other.

"Jared sent me a DVD that he made of himself, and I got to hear his voice," Jones said. "It's very rare that I actually get to hear his voice, because he can't call often."

She said she tries not to worry about Fielding being killed in the war although she said it is a possibility.

"It's scary to hear on CNN when more Marines have died and not knowing if Jared is one of them," Jones said.

She said it is hard for her to read the news, but then again, it is hard not to.

"Jared being in the war has caused a lot of emotional stress," Jones said.

Currently, Fielding is stationed west of Baghdad but no specifics have been given to his exact location.

Jones said Fielding is not allowed to disclose certain information, because it could get him in trouble, and he doesn't want her to worry.

"He tells me that he cannot tell me what he is going through, but says we have a lot to talk about when he returns," Jones said.

She said the weirdest thing about Fielding being in Iraq is that she can't go to his house whenever she wants, nor can she pick up the telephone and call him at anytime. Fielding is scheduled to be home from the war sometime around Thanksgiving.

"My roommate's fiancé has been extended twice so I am not real sure if Jared will be home around Thanksgiving," Jones said.

"All I know is that I miss Jared, and I am ready for him to come home. I was ready for him to return when he left."

Jenna Bass, sophomore Spanish/radiology major, became engaged just a month after her fiancé was called to duty in Iraq.

Jake Edwards, 21, was called to duty in March and left for Iraq in May.

Bass said she had planned for Edwards to be gone for 365 days, like his orders stated.

"A couple of days ago, I found out that Jake's orders got extended to September," Bass said.

She said when she heard the news she became upset because she had no control over the situation.

"It's kind of frustrating, because I can't do anything about it," Bass said.

Bass and her fiancé have plans to marry in August 2005.

"I miss him more than I could miss anyone ever," she said. "When he finally returns, I'll be excited beyond anything."

Bass said when Edwards returns, the couple plans to continue preparing for the wedding.

"I just hope he makes it home so we can continue life together," she said.

"If you were wanting someone to stand back-to-back with you, Tyler would be the one."

V.A. Christensen
Associate Professor of Art

Reflecting on her loved-one overseas, Christen Jones, junior biology/ pre-veterinary major, holds a photo of her boyfriend Jared Fielding. Fielding is serving in Iraq.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Editor's Column

Maybe four states isn't all that bad

Jerry Manter
Editor-in-Chief

I'm not sure what I should write my column about.

Maybe a column about all the horrible things that I've dealt with since I've lived in Missouri for the past two years would interest readers. I could write about all of the horrible food in Joplin and how 99 percent of the restaurants in the area survive on the buffet.

Maybe I could write a column about all the local television personalities that refer to this area of the country as the "four-states." I've already written about that though.

Another possibility for a column idea could be about the young women at Missouri Southern. Wow, there are a lot of beautiful women on this campus, but it's a little discouraging when they're all either engaged or married. I wonder if there's something in the water here. Don't worry — I won't write my column about that either. I'd like, if possible, to get out of here alive.

But as I sit here at my computer in my apartment at 12:47 a.m. trying to think about the next thing in Missouri that's driven me nuts over the past two years, I started to think.

Maybe I'm just full of it and really need to look at the big picture: I've been pretty damn lucky to come to school at Southern. And that is definitely worth writing a column about.

During my two years of school here I've traveled to Cuba, Austria, Hungary and I'm about to spend a month in Mexico to complete my graduation requirements. I joined one of the best college newspapers in the country and I was given the privilege of being editor-in-chief my last year here. And although I'm sure there have been several times when editors have talked behind my back about how picky or ruthless I can be about deadlines, I've been awfully lucky. It's an unusual bunch, but they've made it fun, and I'm honored to have known them all.

I can't wait to move back to my potato farm in Idaho. While I'm just a few weeks away from that next chapter in life, I really have to think about how lucky I've been in Missouri.

I met my best friend at Southern.

She's shown me how to appreciate life for what it is and what it's about to become. It's been a joy having her in my life and I thank her.

I especially thank her for helping me get through that five-credit nightmare we all know as physics.

Thanks to everyone at the University who helped me along the way.

You Missouri folk do things a little different around this part of the country, but you're some of the friendliest people I know.

And it's been a pleasure.

Jerry Manter is the Editor-in-Chief for The Chart. *His opinions are his own and don't necessarily reflect those of* The Chart *staff.*

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY — JOPLIN

THE CHART

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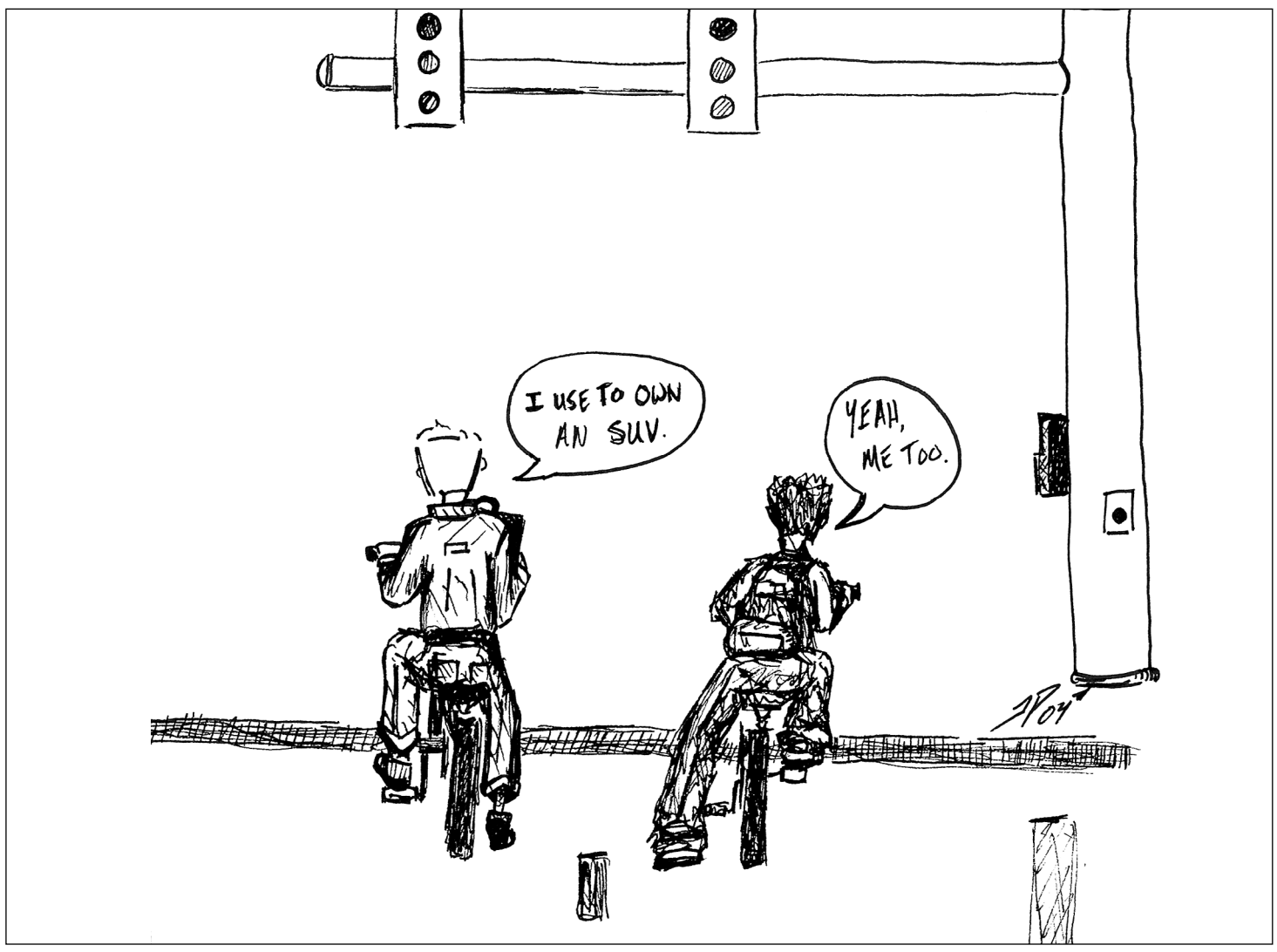
Todd Petillo is a guest cartoonist for The Chart.
The opinions reflected in his cartoon don't necessarily reflect those of The Chart *Staff*

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor must be signed originals and include the writer's address and phone number for verification, as well as class rank and major. Letters should not exceed 300 words. *The Chart* reserves the right to edit or refuse letters on the basis of length, clarity, accuracy and liability. Letters will be chosen for publication by *The Chart* editors according to space considerations.



Exploding gas prices hurt

Chart Opinion

With a commuter-based campus and student pockets empty as they are, we stop and gock at the rising gas prices.

Already, the price of gas has hit $1.80 in many states. This is an outrage to the drivers of the land. Our gas-guzzling "economic" cars don't help much either. Who cares if someone can get 60-miles to the gallon if gas still costs around $35 to fill up the largest of tanks.

Gas prices are also expected to rise until June, which is when most people travel. Whether it is vacation time, wars or little men on the moon, the price of gas does not have to be this high. Earlier, we have seen measures taken to decrease the price of gas, but lately we have not.

Perhaps it is the sudden, unexpected increase, but it is still a burden that should be dealt with. Even in a society of free enterprise, the cost of gas can have impacts on many facets of society.

The postal system and trucking services are not as affected; their vehicles run on diesel fuel. However, for the rest of us, we're stuck with gas prices that are rising faster than Tiger Woods' golf scores.

Oh, and it doesn't hurt either that many students at Missouri Southern drive their gas-munchers to get here.

Students may be stuck with a heavy gas bill, but measures such as carpooling can be effective means of lowering bills.

Also, for those close by, bicycling and walking are not only good exercise, but also money-saving diversions. Why can't there be any action taken? We've seen it before. Where is it now?

Campus Voice BY ADAM FAST

How do you feel about rising gasoline prices?

"If gas prices continue to increase, then the economy will suffer greatly."

Yvette Bowden
Freshman
Secondary Education
Major

"I'm all for them. I figure the higher they are, the better. That way they'll have more alternative fuel stuff."

Alan Anderson
Junior
Undeclared
Major

"I think it's crap. Those of us who have bigger cars like SUV's, the gas prices keep going higher and higher so it costs us more money."

Hope Biesterveld
Junior
History
Major

"I think it's just like a cycle just like with education. It will go up, but it's eventually going to come down."

Katie Lee
Sophomore
Secondary Education
Major

"I think that they're becoming so high that it makes it difficult for anybody to commute."

Heather Asbell
Junior
Middle School
Education Major

Letters

Religious pluralism throws world into utter chaos

This letter is in response to a column by Dr. Ree Wells printed in The Chart *on April 2.*

In regard to your article, "Embracing religious pluralism; examining new ways to pray," I would like to offer you a few considerations to think about.

Ravi Zacharias is a native of India and is no stranger to eastern philosophy. On the social ladder in India, he was among the elitists, being born into the highest Indian caste. Despite this elitist status, Zacharias came to know Jesus Christ on a bed of suicide early in his life. Educated at Cambridge and various other schools, he has offered mankind beautiful insight into the world of philosophy. In his book *Can Man Live Without God*, Zacharias wrote:

"Critical thinking is a basic law. August Comte was right in his observation that ideas govern the world or throw it into chaos."

Does religious pluralism throw the world into chaos? I think it does.

The pivotal belief at the center of pluralism is the affirmation that truth is relative. This position is held by a large number of people, not just in the United States but around the globe. The question that should be asked is whether or not the statement "truth is relative" is inclusive or exclusive. If the statement is inclusive, then the statement in itself is not always true; if it is exclusive, then it is positing an absolute when absolutes are being denied. This is just one example of how pluralism does not hold together logically.

Besides this fact, pluralism contradicts itself in other areas. Is it not the intent of pluralists to make everyone feel better by telling them it doesn't matter what they believe and to spread peace and love in the name of tolerance? It seems so, but what is the consequence of this? The consequence is that the notion of truth is killed. We cannot sacrifice truth and the altar of respect. Do we love someone if we allow that person to indulge in practices that we know are contradictory to the truth? The Bible tells us to "... put away all falsehood, and tell your neighbor the truth because we belong to each other (*Ephesians* 4:25)." If we truly want to love one another we need to do just this. Jesus Christ has commanded us to love, not to be tolerant.

I agree with Zacharias when he wrote critical thinking is a basic law, and I will further emphasize that ideas do indeed: govern the world or throw it into chaos. Do the ideas that are contained in the Bible throw the world into chaos or make sense of it? I encourage you to investigate the absolute claims of the Christian message. Jesus did not say he was "a way," "a truth" and "a life," but that he was "the way," the truth" and "the life," and that no one can come to the father except through him. It is an audacious claim worthy of inquiry.

Jake Evans
Senior
Studio Arts Major

CIS Club finishes first year strong, gives thanks to all

The MSSU Computer Information Science Club is wrapping up its first year, but by no means are we slowing down. On behalf of the CIS Club and its officers, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the people who have contributed to the success we've had, but business first; I have a few announcements to make.

We are keeping busy hosting the elections that will determine next year's club officers.

We have several good people running and the club should be under sound leadership next fall. The deadline for voting in the officer elections is April 22, so if you haven't voted yet, please log on and make your choice. Votes may be cast by any CIS student on the CIS Club Web site at www.cisclub.org. There they will find information posted by our officer candidates to help them decide. Election results will be announced publicly at the club meeting on the 29th.

The CIS Club is very proud to announce that the speaker for the April 29 meeting will be Dr. Yan Asmann from the Mayo Clinic. Asmann's credentials include a bachelor of science. in computer science and a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology.

Among her professional accomplishments stands her work with the Human Genome Project. Her presentation will focus on the field of Bioinformatics. We hope that this will help to generate awareness and interest in the new degree option in bioinformatics being offered at Southern next fall. We would like to encourage anyone interested in hearing Asmann speak to join us at 12:15 p.m. in the Matthews Hall Auditorium.

Now I would like to personally thank and recognize my fellow outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication to the success of the CIS Club. Julie Wilson, our madame president; Mike English, the VP; Michelle Goff, madame treasurer; Caleb Engelkin, Mr.

TURN TO **LETTERS**, PAGE 10

FLYING FINGERS

Adam Fast/The Chart

Keeping up the music, Lo-An Lin participates in the semi-finals of the Junior Division selection rounds of the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, April 21. The contestants play on pianos donated by the Steinway Company.

Swedish group shares Blackboard class

BY NATE BILLINGS
International Editor

Seven Swedish students and one instructor have come to visit Missouri Southern.

The students are part of a Blackboard course which was developed as a cooperation between Southern and Mullsjo in Folkhogskola, Sweden.

The course was designed for the institutions to take advantage of the unique skills each possesses. The Swedish institute offers Southern students an opportunity to learn photography skills and Southern, in turn, offers the Swedish students an opportunity to learn graphic design.

"We have about a 20 year history with taking our (Southern's) students to Sweden," said Nick Kyle, associate professor of art.

Kyle said because of the newest Blackboard course, the Swedish students had the opportunity to participate and work with Southern students for the last two weeks of the semester.

Orjan Heriksson, photography instructor at Mullsjo, said he is happy to come to Southern. He taught as a visiting professor and artist for one year at Southern.

"Hopefully, the Swedes will get plenty out of the graphics class, and the Americans will get some out of the photography class," Heriksson said.

He said that the hospitality of the University has been comforting.

"We have been met with great hospitality," he said. "It [the trip] looks like a great opportunity."

His students agree.

Christoffer de Miguel, Malin Andersson, and Kristin Wilfing, students of Henriksson, said they have enjoyed meeting the American students in the class.

"It is interesting," Andersson said. "It's exciting to see the American culture."

Miguel said the whole trip was something to experience.

The group will travel to Springfield and Kansas City to visit advertising firms and photography exhibits.

Wilfing said the University was large in comparison to their institution, which has only around 150 students on campus.

The Swedish students will work with the American students in pairs to complete one of the course assignments. The Swedish students will help Southern students work on photography during the project, and Southern students will work with the Swedish students to work with the photos on the computer.

The only complaint voiced by the Swedish students was toward the commuter nature of the area.

"It's a little bit boring," Miguel said. "You can't walk anywhere. You have to have a car."

Overall, however, the students were pleased with their trip. They enjoyed the weather and the friendliness of the students at Southern.

"We appreciate being looked after very well," Andersson said.

Students break word barriers

BY NATE BILLINGS
International Editor

Language barriers and culture shock should not be a problem for the contestants of the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition.

Several international students volunteered to help the contestants should the host families or anyone else have problems communicating.

During the orientation April 19, interpreters were not as necessary as previously thought.

> *"They (the volunteers) can share their positive attitudes."*
>
> **Trish Udell**
> *Adjunct Instructor with the Institute of International Studies*

One interpreter, Dr. Sherman Hou, associate professor of Asian languages, helped translate Chinese between contestants and host families.

"It's fun," Hou said. "It's a new area for me."

Hou said the only difficult part about translating for the contestants would be the specialized music terms he could encounter.

He said for the most part, many of the contestants understand or speak English.

Olga Khlopina, junior pre-med major, is also volunteering her time when she is needed.

Khlopina said she would like to help wherever.

"I think it's (MSIPC) something great on our campus," she said.

Khopina said it was good to have the MSIPC in a small town.

Vivian León, director of MSIPC, said the international volunteers are used to helping the students feel more comfortable when they travel away from home to the United States.

She said the students and contestants could shop, talk and play games together during the week.

Jian Fan, freshman international studies major, gave his telephone number to a couple of Chinese contestants in case they needed his assistance.

He also found translating to be somewhat unnecessary.

"They're (the contestants) young, but they can communicate some things," Fan said.

He said the contestants from China had to adjust to the different culture.

The contest itself is different from what the Chinese contestants were used to.

"There, this activity would be supported by the government," Fan said.

"Here, people from around the country support it."

Trish Udell, adjunct instructor with the Institute of International Studies, helped León find volunteers.

"They (the volunteers) can be a host to other international students," Udell said.

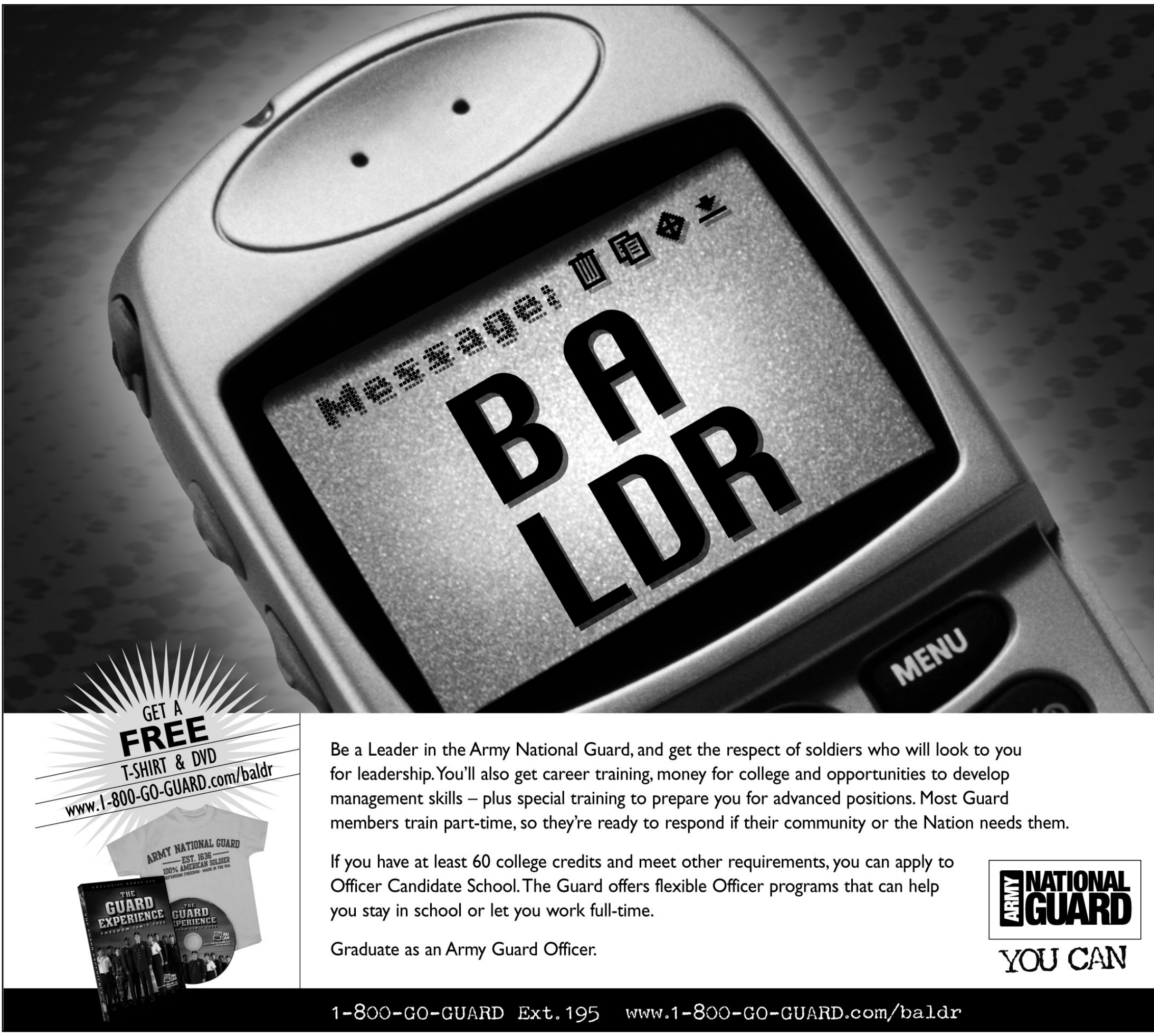
"They can share their positive attitudes."

Udell said it was important for the contestants to have someone they can relate to while in the United States.

On Friday afternoon all international volunteers are invited to a reception for the contestants at Hastings Entertainment Store.

The volunteers were to be matched with contestants from their native countries if they were needed.

Most of the time, the volunteers were on an on-call basis.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"Mobile Maintenance Machine," a piece by Justin Shaw, senior studio art major, lies sprawled on the floor of Spiva Art Gallery. The piece is part of the current exhibit featuring the works of five Missouri Southern senior art majors. The exhibit runs through Friday.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Modern art machines attack

By Melissa Dunson
Diversions Editor

Alien machines have taken over Spiva Art Gallery.

The current exhibit is the culmination of years of hard work for five Missouri Southern seniors.

A significant segment of the exhibit is populated by a troupe of otherworldly wood and resin machines by Justin Shaw, studio art major. Some of the unusual inventions shown include "Mobile Maintenance Machine" more resembling an aluminum squid floundering on the floor, tentacles outstretched, than someone's homework assignment, and the largest piece shown, "Untitled," similar to a eight-foot-tall, one-legged backhoe with a pickaxe for an arm.

In a written artist statement, Shaw said his futuristic creations were inspired by movies, cartoons and toys he had growing up during the '80s.

"It [his collection] seems lighthearted at first glance, a deeper investigation reveals a seriousness and foreboding undertone of future advances in technology that will produce very wondrous, as well as very ominous, things."

Some of Shaw's other sculptures show the darker side of menacing modernism by addressing society's fear and dislike of subjects like cloning, robotics, medicine and artificial intelligence. A piece titled "Collared Virus," a large eyeball with two mechanical legs and metal suction-cup toes, greets startled gallery visitors by coming to life with the help of a fan, light bulb and motion sensor.

Students who have seen the exhibit appreciated Shaw's wild imagination and the machines resulting from it.

Holly Boyer, secondary art education major, exhibits wild, color-rich interpretations of nature and abstract modern swirls of her own imagination in a selection of watercolor and oil paintings.

A particularly personal piece is "Newborn," a yellow and red close up of a fetus or newborn child's face in all its delicate intricacy.

"That piece is very special to me because I painted it when I was pregnant with my daughter," Boyer said. "She always says it's a picture of her."

The only graphic design major showcased in this exhibit, Grant Cottrell, has a showing focusing on design including posters for various events and advertisements including sports and cell phones, product packaging, CD covers and jewelry.

Stephanie Dutra, secondary art education major, expresses her style through various means including long Asian-style wall hangings and sculptures made from strips of clay.

One striking piece is a barely discernable figure of a mother carved in a block of wood in an ancient style that provokes all the depth of feeling with the simplicity of the purest minimalist.

Lyda Konstanzer, studio art major, exhibited a diverse mixture of styles and mediums produced during her time at Southern.

Konstanzer repeats images of wings and faces in her artwork, especially focusing on her jewelry.

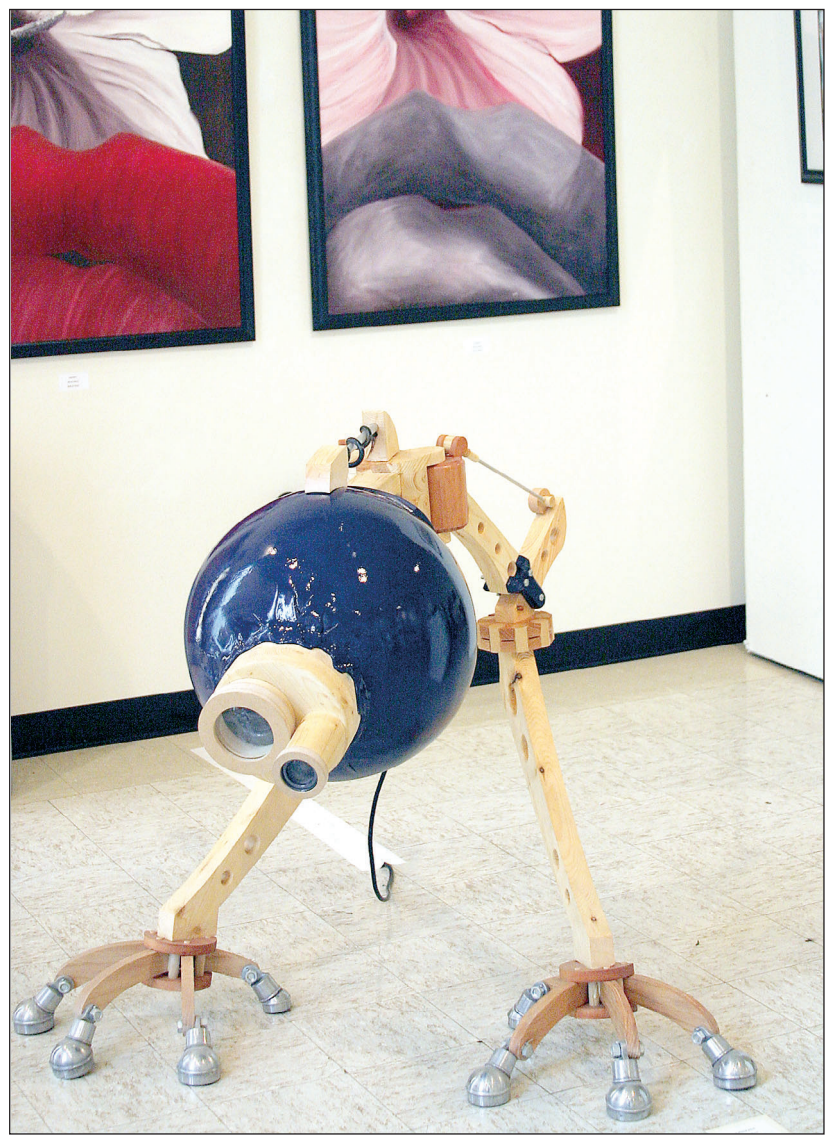
"I really try to work with freedom and identity and what it means in my pieces," Konstanzer said. "They (wings and faces) are personal symbols I created for myself."

Her favorite piece is a pin with wings enclosing a green stone titled "We Love to Fly" because she sees the comedy in its resemblance of a twisted flight attendant's pin. Konstanzer's sculptures were a favorite among students who had viewed the exhibit. Pieces like "It's What's for Dinner," consisting of a wooden cat with a fish hanging in its open belly, showed Konstanzer's style and sense of humor.

Konstanzer said there was a good turnout for the opening reception held April 18. Although preparation for the event was stressful at times, she thought the result was well worth the effort.

"It's a great feeling when you get to stand back and look at it and share it with other people," Konstanzer said.

The exhibit runs through Friday.



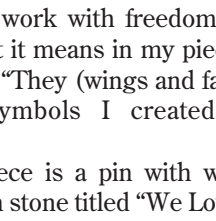
Andy Tevis/The Chart

Sculptures by senior art major Justin Shaw are inspired by the fears and concerns society expresses toward technological advances.

Vol. 2 brings less violence, more wit

Review Corner

Melissa Dunson
Diversions Editor



Everyone deserves a second chance for redemption.

In *Kill Bill Vol. 2*, controversial director Quentin Tarantino has produced another unusual dark comedy continuing his legacy of *Pulp Fiction*, *Reservoir Dogs* and *Jackie Brown*.

The second and final installment is more tastefully done than the first. Unlike the ultra-violent *Vol. 1*, the sequel contains more of what Tarantino fans have grown to expect. Witty, cutting-edge dialogue pokes fun at society while a delightful classic '70s soundtrack provides the backdrop for a variety of kung-fu fights.

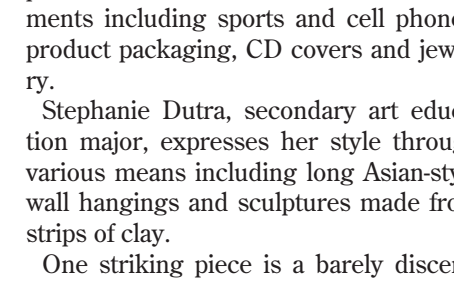
Tarantino provides the viewer with sufficient background for someone who hasn't seen the first, but keeps it interesting for those who have by disclosing entertaining details that give richness and layers to the characters' history missing in the confusing and bloody first volume.

Kill Bill Vol. 2 is full of experienced and familiar actors Tarantino routinely gathers around himself like Uma Thurman as The Bride returning from a coma to enact her revenge; Michael Madsen as a drunk, out of practice Texas assassin; and Samuel L. Jackson in a entertaining bit part as a has-been jazz musician turned wedding organist in a short flashback.

There are more emotional and philosophical conversations than fight scenes, developing the story and making you care about these cold-blooded characters rather than just showing severed body parts in pools of blood.

The opposite focus of the movies can be explained if keeping in mind the two volumes were meant to be one movie, but were separated because of their length.

The subject matter is appropriately bizarre. Thurman stars as the pissed off bride out to get revenge on her former assassin buddies who tried to kill her during her wedding rehearsal. In *Vol. 1*, Thurman works half-way down her hit list and now only three names remain. The very last is the ringleader, Bill, who Thurman very much wants to kill.



Special to The Chart

Uma Thurman stars in *Kill Bill Vol. 2*.

The *Kill Bill* movies were inspired by Tarantino's obsession with classic kung-fu films and were made to both honor and spoof those classic films. The sections of the movie are broken up into chapters that are labeled with large conspicuously cheesy text and the fight-scene sound effects are reminiscent of the "wham," "bam" of classic Batman episodes.

Kill Bill Vol. 2, although more tasteful and savvy, is still very violent, and several main characters experience very unpleasant and disturbing deaths. The film is rated R for a reason and is not suitable for anyone under 17 years of age.

Although, like the first, this movie is a parody of classic kung-fu movies from the '70s, it is clever enough to be taken seriously and enjoyed for the cinematic masterpiece that it is.

Board discusses mixed reviews about Patch Adams' lecture

By David Haut
Public Forum Editor

Comments and criticisms flew like birds through the student activities office April 21.

Missouri Southern's Campus Activities Board reconvened for another meeting as the semester draws to a close. Julie Blackford, director of student activities, was curious about student feelings on guest lecturer Dr. Hunter "Patch" Adams. More than 1,100 people attended the event, although some left during the lecture. Although Blackford heard mixed reviews, she still had the same opinion.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience," Blackford said.

Plans were discussed for future events, both upcoming and in the fall. Spring Fling events will include an outdoor movie. Proposed nights are Tuesday and April 30. The movies planned are *The Blue Collar Comedy Tour* and *School of Rock*.

Other Spring Fling events planned for next week are a skate night at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, and a photo scavenger hunt on Tuesday. Teams interested in the photo scavenger hunt can sign up anytime in the student activities office, or just stop by on Tuesday to pick up a camera. Prizes include gift certificate packages to area restaurants, movie tickets and a movie snack package.

"We plan to have about 15 people show up," said Derick White, senior special education major. "If we get 50, that's OK, too."

Blackford also brought up plans for next year's meetings. She plans to try a new format for the board's meetings, alternating times each week. Every other week, meetings will take place later in the day, the purpose being to involve more non-traditional students and members of Student Senate. No final decision has been made.

Other ideas for Homecoming week include "Southern Idol," a spoof of hit television reality show "American Idol." A karaoke night was also suggested.

Anyone interested in CAB are invited to attend the weekly meetings at 2 p.m. every Wednesday in the student activities office on the second floor of the Billingsly Student Center.

The Photospiva competition at George A. Spiva Center for the Arts exhibits local and national talent in a variety of humorous and serious pieces. For information, read the story.

Funny Thing About Life...

DAVID HAUT
Public Forum Editor

A friend of mine locked her keys in her car. We could have just called security and had the problem solved in perhaps a couple of minutes. But why? Because no man passes up the opportunity to be MacGyver.

I pulled up to her car, searching through mine for items that could perhaps be useful. I found an earpiece for my cell phone, a Swiss Army knife and a Slinky.

Naturally, I used the Slinky, because I wanted to tell people I unlocked a car door with a Slinky, and because that's what MacGyver would do.

It took about five minutes to get the door unlocked. Of course, if I had one arm tied to the axle, a mullet and a bomb strapped to my leg, I probably could have done it in three.

Men love that stuff. Give us a ball of twine, a Zippo lighter and a Swiss Army knife, and we can fix a broken airplane wing. We use chewing gum as a perfectly acceptable adhesive. We know any solvent can explode, everything metal is a tool, and there are enough parts in a telephone to build a rocket ship. (Come on, it's not brain surgery).

Toothpicks are projectiles, lock picks, fuses and detonators. A strip of Duct Tape can spell the difference between victory and defeat. No amount of time is too small, no idea too big and no common household item goes to waste.

Broken bikes become Ford Mustangs, pop cans can fix lawnmowers and shattered mirrors can unlock the secrets of the universe.

We use eggs to fix car engines, steaks as safety gloves and chocolate bars to fix nuclear leaks.

For some people, it was a show in the '80s. For guys like me, it was a reality.

I still remember how to make a signal flare from a ski pole and massive fireball from common household cleaners. Where else could you learn how to make a blowtorch out of a wheelchair?

It's sad nothing ever works out like it did on that show. Most guys think they're MacGyver, they're actually Tim Taylor. We brag about opening car doors with Slinkys, but still put metal in the microwave, following both up with a deep throated grunt or exasperated "uh-oh."

Deep down, every man is a MacGyver, whether his dental floss is mint or cinnamon.

So, if you have anything to fix, a car door to open or a top-secret government mission to save the world, don't forget your eyeglasses, Duct Tape and Slinky. They may save your life, or at least open a car door.

David Haut, Public Forum Editor, writes a weekly humor column for The Chart. *His opinions are his own and don't necessarily reflect those of* The Chart *staff members.*

Adam Fast/The Chart

Photospiva, the current exhibit at the George A. Spiva Center for the Arts, includes photos of every form including film, digital, scanned and photos manipulated in Photoshop.

Competition encourages locals to snap timeless photographs

BY ADAM FAST
Staff Writer

Though anybody can snap a picture; a camera in the hands of the right person can communicate feelings, beauty, and the unseen to all who view the resulting print.

Photospiva is a competition aimed at collecting those images which best represent photography as a form of art.

The contest, which started in 1977, is the longest continuous running national photography competition in the United States.

This year, the competition saw 550 pieces entered from 117 photographers in 25 states, said Jo Mueller, director at Spiva Center for the Arts.

Unlike other photography competitions, which judge from entries on slides, Photospiva judges from actual display-ready prints.

"It's a very exciting competition because it's open to both professionals and amateurs alike," Mueller said, "so the juror must be sensitive to both ends of the spectrum."

The amateur entrants are traditionally enthusiastic and experimental, and the professionals can turn out good ideas quickly, she said.

"It's not limited to any process — 35mm to digital to scanned and manipulated in Photoshop," Mueller said.

The single juror for this year's competition was Dr. Therese Mulligan, a former curator of photography at the George Eastman House.

In Mulligan's juror's statement, she writes, "I am, along with the public, presented with a type of 'snapshot' view of current issues and practices in contemporary photography."

Though entries were received from 25 states, several residents in the Joplin area had work that chosen for the exhibition.

Bill Perry, a Joplin attorney, was one of those chosen for the exhibition. He began to experiment with photography six years ago through a class at Franklin Tech and taught himself since then.

"It's gotten to be more than a hobby," Perry said. "I have a gallery in Tulsa that shows my work, and I try to sell it whenever I can."

Perry does all of his own developing and printing by hand in his home darkroom located in his garage.

"I used to have a garage," he said. "I don't have a garage anymore. It takes a lot of space."

Perry is mostly involved with portraiture and figure photography.

"It's like letting others see what I see in the beauty and mystery of the portrait and figure," he said. "There's so much out there for someone who's willing to learn."

James Henson, senior physics major, left, Jimmy Noriega, senior theatre, English and Spanish major, and Rachel Mastin, junior theatre major, practice lines and blocking for a summer trip to Cody, Wyo., and the chance to work with a Tony award winning actor.

Adam Fast/The Chart

Tony award winner provides opportunity

BY DAVID HAUT
Public Forum Editor

Theatre students are becoming acquainted with Cody. Cody, Wyo., that is.

Sam Claussen, associate professor of theatre, along with a small cast and crew, will travel to Cody to perform *The Nerd*, a play by Larry Shue.It all started when Claussen took his daughter, Jessie, and Jordan Merritt, senior theatre major, to a lighting workshop directed by Tony Award winning actor Joe Sears.

Soon after, Sears asked Claussen and the Missouri Southern theatre department if they would be interested in performing a summer show.

"This is the beginning of a cooperation between Cody stage and the MSSU drama department," Claussen said. "We will have a paid ensemble of actors go every summer to Cody, Wyo."

This year the cast of seven includes theatre veterans: Rachel Mastin, junior theatre major; David Pearson and Jimmy Noriega, senior theatre, Spanish, English and history major, as well as newcomer James Henson, senior physics major, who is making his debut in the lead role.

Actors are responsible for their own costumes and makeup. They will carpool to Cody and live together in a lodge, provided by Sears.

If free lodging and a Tony-Award winning actor weren't enough, the theatre is located just miles from Yellowstone National Park.

Actors and staff all agree the co-op will be great for the department and the school.

"It would make a great recruiting tool," said Jan Maldonado,

TURN TO **THEATRE**, PAGE 8

Area Events

If your organization has an event you would like publicized, call Melissa Dunson at 625-9311.

23
13 Going On 30 and *Man On Fire* open at the Northstar 14 Theaters.

MSIPC Senior Semi-finals @ 9 a.m. @ Webster Hall Auditorium.

MSIPC Junior Finals @ 7 p.m. @ Taylor Auditorium.

The Get Up Kids concert @ 9 p.m. @ Granada Theatre in Lawrence, Kan.

24
Glory Days "Live Music Cafe" @ 8 p.m @ Glory Days Music.

MSIPC Senior Finals @ 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. @ Taylor Auditorium.

MSIPC Gala Winners Concert @ 8 p.m. @ Taylor Auditorium.

Rock N Ribs BBQ Festival Charity Event from 8 a.m.-11 p.m. @ The Bass Pro Shop in Springfield.

25
Karaoke from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. @ Murphy's Irish Pub.

Senior Art Exhibit Opening Reception @ 3 p.m. @ Spiva Art Gallery.

The Crystal Method concert @ 8 p.m @ Granada Theatre in Lawrence, Kan.

Mendelssohn Oratorio @ 2:30 p.m. @ Evangel Chapel Auditorium in Springfield.

26
BSU Joy Explosion @ 7 p.m.

Chimaira, Fear Factory, God Forbid and Slipknot concert @ 7 p.m. @ Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City.

27
Brent Kington art exhibit from 12-5 p.m. @ SMSU Art & Design Gallery in Springfield.

28
General all-ages extreme sports session @ 3 p.m. @ The Bridge.

Karaoke @ 10 p.m. @ The Green Room.

CAB meeting @ 2 p.m. @ 2nd floor Billingsly.

Raveonettes and The Strokes concert @ 8 p.m. @ Uptown Theatre in Kansas City.

Krazy Karaoke @ 9 p.m. @ Champ's Bar and Grill

29
Campus Crusade for Christ @ 7:30 p.m. @ the Student Life Center.

A Toby Show play @ 7 p.m. @ Drury University in Springfield.

"Moment by Moment" dance concert @ 7:30 p.m. @ Craig Hall Coger Theatre @ SMSU in Springfield.

Weird News:

8-year-old girl for sale on eBay

GERMANY — Police are investigating a woman who is alleged to have put her 8-year-old daughter up for sale on the Internet with a starting price of $1.19.

"You can play with her," was included in the sales pitch allegedly put up by the mother and her boyfriend. Motives are unclear and police said the incident is possibly just a bad joke.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3643183.stm

Workers trade passwords for chocolate

ENGLAND — A survey released by the organizers of the conference Infosecurity Europe 2004 found that 71 percent of office workers were willing to disclose their password if bribed with a chocolate bar. The survey also found 37 percent of workers would relinquish their password if asked.

www.canada.com/news/oddities/story

PATCH:

From Page 1

few if any people spend time thinking about the "verbing of love."

Patch also criticized current government policy, especially toward war.

He showed a 15-minute portion of his documentary, *Clownin' Kabul*, about halfway through his lecture. The film is about a troop of clowns from around the world who Patch led to Afghanistan two months after the U.S. invasion. The clowns visited hospitals and refugee camps to help ease the pain of the people there.

Before the film excerpt, Patch warned audience members the film is graphic. He said he intended it to be difficult for adults to watch, but apologized to those who brought their children.

After the showing and the government criticism, approximately half the audience was left in the stands.

One of the last topics Patch talked about before a question-and-answer session was the "four 'A's." Attention, Affection, Anticipation and Appreciation, he said are essential to creating a lasting relationship, whether it be with a friendship or a romantic relationship.

After the question-and-answer session, Patch had copies of his books, *Patch Adams, M.D.* and *House Calls* for sale and he signed them, spending a few minutes talking to each person who wanted an autograph and posing for photos with several of them.

At the lecture, Jeremy Sturgell, Southern's 2003 Outstanding Graduate who now attends medical school at the University of Columbia, was given the opportunity to introduce Patch.

Sturgell said he was asked to do the introduction because he has a relationship with the University. He once served as the lecture chair and tried several times to bring Patch here. Sturgell said when he was asked he "definitely" wanted to do it.

Sturgell had the opportunity to meet Patch before the lecture.

"He was intense," Sturgell said. "[He was] everything I expected, just much more intense."

"It (the lecture) was different than I thought it would be," Blackford said.

She said people were probably expecting the Robin Williams version and Patch, but instead they saw the real Patch.

Several people came to the lecture because of the movie starring Robin Williams.

Skyler Beebe, resident of Joplin, said she came because she is a fan of the movie and of Patch.

"He was a good motivational speaker," Beebe said.

Carrie Cravens, junior nursing major, also came because of the movie.

"I just wanted to see what he was like," Cravens said. "I thought he was a very inspiring person, and I think more people should be like him."

Lindsay Rickman, junior health promotion and wellness major, said she came not only because of the movie but because she wanted to "see the real Patch Adams."

"He gave new meaning to the word 'love,'" Rickman said.

Sturgell thought the lecture went over well.

"It was just good that that many people came out," he said

THEATRE:

From Page 7

Southern alumna. "This is much more of an experience for students. They won't be lost when they leave. They'll have a direct connection with a professional theatre company."

"It will be a good experience for everyone going," Mastin said. "We'll get everyone to do a little of everything."

The company plans to have an open door performance at 7:30 p.m. May 26 in the Bud Walton Theater.

They will leave for Cody the following morning.

Performances will take place from June 1 through June 13. Dr. Jay Fields will direct *Love Letters*, which will run to the end of the month.

The theatre department will provide a month of professional theatre for The Cody Stage.

Sears is allowing Southern Theatre to try out this summer, providing food, gas and lodging as payment.

If all goes according to plan, students and alumni will have a professional outlet every summer.

This proves students don't have to go on Broadway or to L.A to make money, Maldonado said.

Future plans for a Cody/Southern exchange are still in development.

MEETING:

From Page 3

think we're doing that."

Agee said the deadline to pull out of the consortium is April 30.

The Board decided to it will look into the issue next year.

León said the Missouri House has passed its version of next year's budget and sent it to the Senate.

León said the House recommended about $20.3 million, and the Senate may add another $486,000 to that amount.

"So far things are looking very good as far as appropriations," he said.

The April 15 meeting will be Glenn Wilson's last, pending the approval of new Board member David Ansley. Wilson, who has been a member of the Board since 1978, has served with all three of Southern's presidents.

Wilson said he has seen many things change at Southern, from the campus itself to even the name change.

"It's been a pleasure," he said. "I've enjoyed every minute of it."

Other items the Board discussed included:

• Dr. Betsy Griffin, interim vice president for academic affairs, said Southern and SMSU are working on a proposal for a master of arts in teaching.

• Board members will attend a retreat in July with the administration to discuss a strategic plan for Southern for the next three years.

Wilson was given the honor of motioning the adjournment for his last Board meeting.

NAME:

From Page 3

what will change on the Web site and e-mail service.

Earney said the problems were because people did not change their addresses.

"It's just a human error," Earney said. "Most of the time when people didn't get e-mail they were expecting it was because they forgot to change it."

The on-campus e-mail addresses were changed automatically.

After July 24, 2003, the Novell Web access e-mail services changed from mail.mssc.edu to mssu.edu.

Earney said EDUCAUSE, a national non-profit association promoting the use of information technology to advance higher education, is in charge of Web domains ending in .edu.

"We had six months where we could use both MSSU and MSSC," he said.

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Senate experiences rainstorm

BY KARENA WELLS
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri capitol was under the attack of a "heavy rainstorm" April 20.

The Senate reconvened at 3 p.m. with Lt. Gov. Joe Maxwell(D) serving as speaker.

Disagreements on the appropriation of $8 million in additional money from gambling and whether to put it into the education budget were partially to blame for the late session.

Sen. Ken Jacob (D-Columbia) and Sen. Wayne Goode (D-St. Louis) took turns introducing substitute amendments to House Bill 1002 that dealt with the education budget.

Sen. John Russell (R-Lebanon) reminded Jacob that according to the Missouri Senate rules, if he continued to delay the Senate, his district could face consequences.

"You can jerk whatever you want around, but don't you threaten me," Jacob said. "Don't threaten to jerk me around. I don't get jerked around. Do you want to get jerked around?"

"I'm not suggesting that I know everything, but I believe we need to get the budget done," Russell said.

"When some institution in my district is threatened," Jacob said, "I will speak out for it."

Senate President Pro Tem Peter Kinder(R-Cape Girardeau) spoke out to Jacob.

"How dare you have such disrespect for Sen. Russell," Kinder said. "How dare you have such disrespect for the Senate and the job at hand."

The Democrats in the Senate continued to filibuster House Bill 1002 relating to the education budget until midnight.

Media agencies covering the budget debate were unable to report on the Senate events because of deadlines.

If the filibusters continue in the Senate, House Bill 1304 may not be heard until after April 23.

Sponsored by Rep. Richard Byrd (R-Kirkwood), the tort reform bill makes changes to the laws affecting claims for damages and the payment thereof.

If the bill is heard after April 23, Gov. Bob Holden would not be required to act on the bill in 15 days.

The governor could wait until August to decide on the bill.

With election clouds looming in the air, no one knows what will happen in the Senate.

NWMSU, MU look to join forces soon

BY KARENA WELLS
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The House education committee held a public hearing on House Bill 1710 April 21.

Sponsored by Rep. Brad Lager (R-Maryville), the bill would revise references to Northwest Missouri State University to accomplish its incorporation into the University of Missouri System. It needs to be in agreement between the board of regents of Northwest and the board of curators at MU. The reviser of statutes would have to be notified by Aug. 28, 2006, for the changes to become effective. The bill also includes wording that would provide for the technical provisions concerning the transfer of property and employees and the control of funds.

"I could stand up here and say there is 70 percent support, but I don't think so."

Rep. Brad Lager
(R-Maryville)

Lager said in the hearing that one of the biggest concerns was the fact that there are two regional universities within 40 miles of one another (Northwest and Missouri Western State College). He said his bill would allow for improvements to Northwest and allow for Missouri Western to become the premier regional university for the northwest corner of Missouri.

He said he used his spring break from the House to meet with civic groups in Maryville holding a forum in the town hall for any one interested.

Rep. Maynard Wallace(R-Thornfield) questioned Lager as to whether the coordinating board at Northwest was in favor of the merge.

"I could stand up here and say there is 70 percent support," Lager said. "But I don't think so. I can tell you that this will help to diversify the universities and could be beneficial to all involved. I agree we will be giving up local control."

Wallace also questioned whether there was wording in the bill to protect the current identity of the bill. Lager said there was not.

The question of a tuition raise was also addressed.

"Tuition will go up whether we merge or not," Lager said.

He said that once the bill was accepted then the board of regents would be able to work with the MU system about easy ways to create tuition diversification.

The education committee did not come to any decision on the bill.

University President Julio Leon is in favor of the merger between the universities.

"I have no problem with Northwest being a part of the MU system," Leon said. "But I do not foresee Missouri Southern ever becoming part of the MU system."

WHO'S HUNGRY?

Karena Wells/The Chart

Representatives of Missouri's Electric Cooperatives were on the lawn outside the capitol April 21 to deep fry catfish during the annual fish fry at the capitol. The event raises awareness about the electric cooperative.

Rally Day attracts NRA members

BY KARENA WELLS
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Card carrying members of the National Rifle Association flooded the Capitol April 21 to celebrate the 12th annual Gun Rights Rally Day. The event was sponsored by the Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance, Missourians for Personal Safety and the Western Missouri Shooters Alliance. The theme for this year's event was "Celebration of Liberty."

Thomas Zenthoefer, member of the NRA and the Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance, said he came to the rally to thank the legislators for passing the concealed weapons bill last year and for also overriding Gov. Bob Holden's veto of the bill.

Zenthoefer was aware of the arguments against the bill that were used during the Missouri Supreme Court Hearing in January. He did not believe the bill was a violation of the Hancock Amendment because counties could decide whether to allow permits or not.

"There were four counties exempt from having to issue permits," Zenthoefer said. "But all but one are now taking applications for permits."

He advised that persons who worry for their personal safety should consider carrying a firearm.

"Two million regular citizens use firearms right now to protect themselves," Zenthoefer said.

He said the NRA protection courses offered throughout the state can assist anyone who wishes to gain the necessary skills to obtain a permit.

As to what gun is best, "The best gun is the one that makes the biggest hole," Zenthoefer said. "A shot gun is ideal."

He also said in most situations just the appearance of a gun is enough to prevent harm and often no shots are needed.

For ladies who find a shot gun too big to carry in their purse, he said there were purses specially made for carrying a full size semi-automatic gun.

He said there were also guns small enough to fit in a pant's pocket without being detectable.

Firearm safety classes are available Missouri Southern through the criminal justice department.

Amendments to education bill cause hostility in Senate

BY KARENA WELLS
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — "I had the floor, speaker, tell her I had the floor. She does not have the floor. I do," Jacob said.

Sen. Ken Jacob (D-Columbia) put his hands on his hips and spoke out to the floor leader in an attempt to regain the floor of the Missouri Senate April 20.

Sen. Sarah Steelman (R-Rolla) introduced an amendment to House Bill 1002 that would create a World War II film documentary for use in public schools.

Funding totaling $1 million would be taken from the education development portion of the budget to go toward the creation of the video program.

Jacob introduced a substitute to the amendment that would create a scholarship program for veterans of the current war in Iraq.

"Senator, I wish you would not do that.," Steelman said.

"These WWII veterans are going to die soon, but these teachers could go on teaching for a long time," Jacob said.

In a show of bipartisanship, Jacob asked to combine both bills and to possibly include other war veterans in the documentary.

Sen. Stephen Stoll(D-Festus) questioned Steelman about the education development portion of the budget and whether or not she knew what services it provided.

"Nationwide this is a model program, other states are envious of our program," Stoll said.

"The program currently has $20 million," Steelman said. "I thought it was an appropriate place to get money. The house has already put it into the budget."

Stoll repeated his question to Steelman.

"I'm done," Steelman said to Jacob.

"You can do it. They can vote on yours."

"What did you say to her that got her so frustrated," Jacob said to Stoll.

"Does anyone know what this $1 million is being used for?" said Jacob.

House Bill 1002 passed in the senate without Steelman's or Jacob's amendment..

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Cottey makes plans to delight, amuse

Cottey Pops and Cottey Chamber Singers will perform "Songs to Delight, Amuse, and Charm," at 8 p.m. Friday, in the Missouri Recital Hall of the Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts.

Both choirs are under the direction of Professor Theresa Forrester Spencer. The concert is free and no tickets are required. The Center for the Arts is on the northeast corner of Austin and Tower streets in Nevada.

Truman State names new vice president

Mark A. Gambaiana has been named vice president for university advancement at Truman State University. He will begin his duties July 1.

Gambaiana is currently a consultant for Gonser Gerber Tinker Stuhr. Since 2001, he has provided consulting services in the areas of annual fund, major and planned gifts, board and volunteer development, pre-campaign studies, capital campaign counsel, strategic planning, program audits, alumni and public relations.

Gambaiana joined Gonser Gerber Tinker Stuhr following a 17-year career in college and university advancement.

Southeast Symphonic presents final concert

The Southeast Symphonic Wind Ensemble presented its final concert of the year, and Dr. Robert M.Gifford's final concert at the University, April 22 in the University Center Ballroom. This year's "Olde-Tyme Band Concert" continued a long tradition of "pops-style" spring concerts, which included the recent performance of "Stars, Stripes and Sousa!"

The music for the evening consisted of "Rainbow Ripples," featuring senior xylophone soloist Amy Vrbosky, a saxophone section feature by Warren Barker and "Lassus Trombone."

"Grace Notes," the bell choir of Grace United Methodist Church, conducted by Ray Herring, was the featured guest ensemble. Traditional overtures, several marches and a suite of Lincolnshire folk songs by Percy Grainger were also performed. Master of ceremonies for the evening's entertainment was Dr. Marlin McCutchan, emeritus professor of music at Southeast.

SMSU plans annual spring dance show

Southwest Missouri State University's annual spring dance concert will demonstrate students' thoughts, feelings and abilities in the production "Moment by Moment" April 29-May 2 at Craig Hall's Coger Theatre.

Shows are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. April 29-May 1 and 2:30 p.m. May 2. Tickets range in price from $6-$10 and can be purchased by calling 417- 836-SMSU or 1-888-4-SMS-TIX. Tickets will also be available at the Craig Hall box office. For information, contact Mark Templeton, theatre and dance department marketing director, at 417- 886-9672.

UMR Chess Club faces off with MU

The UMR Chess Club will host a chess match against the University of Missouri-Columbia Chess Club at 2p.m. May 1, in the Carver-Turner Room of University Center-East on campus.

The match consists of an eight-board game and will end at approximately 5 p.m. The UMC team includes one of Missouri's best chess players, Isaac Naveh, who holds a "master" ranking.

The UMR Chess Club meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays in the University Center-East Cafeteria.

Winning 800

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Head baseball coach Warren Turner, nearing his 800th win, spends many hours in the dugout of Joe Becker Stadium where he has also served as the groundskeeper for 27 years.

Turner nears milestone

BY NATE BILLINGS
International Editor

With one to go, Warren Turner, head baseball coach, is fast approaching the 800th win of his career.

Turner did not give much credence to the idea of having 800 wins under his belt.

He simply wished instead to give the credit to all the coaches and players he has worked with in the past.

"It's nice," Turner said. "It is a tribute to the program."

Currently, Turner is not concerned about the 800th win, but rather he is focused on his team.

"If any college team wins over 20 [games], you have a good year," he said.

He said his goal is to get the team into conference.

Among his fondest memories of his 27 years at Missouri Southern, several things stand out.

The first few are the games, and several wins against Division I schools. The second are the five World Series appearances his teams have made.

Overall, Turner has enjoyed his time as a coach. He spent 11 years as a coach in the Joplin R-8 school district before coming to Southern.

"It hasn't been a job," he said. "It's fun; it's great."

His only complaints have been cold weather and long van drives to and from games.

During his time as head coach, Turner has served as the groundskeeper for Joe Becker Stadium.

He worked to keep the field and all adjacent places clean. He took over the park 27 years ago when the land used to be home to amusement parks and carnivals. Since then he has cleaned it up and kept it that way for his team to enjoy baseball.

Something that stands out in Turner is his eye for community service.

"The rent you pay for living on this earth is paid back in service and school," Turner said.

He teaches his players how to give back to the community; some say more than he coaches.

"He teaches us more than baseball," said Danny Pinkerton, catcher from 1997 to 2002. "He taught me more about the fundamentals of life."

This statement rang true in other players.

"He's an excellent coach for helping you give back to the community," said Dustin Brown, pitcher.

"He teaches us a lot about being a man," said Austin Brown, shortstop and pitcher.

The current team hopes to win the 800th for Turner. The closest possibility is this weekend.

"He deserves it," Dustin said. "He's been around the game and community a long time."

The other players agree.

"It's a pretty awesome accomplishment," Austin said. "Not many coaches can do that."

Turner said there are four things which are important in anyone's life.

They are the acceptance of the Lord, marriage, where and how you go to school, and taking care of one's parents later in life.

He said he tries to keep his players looking at more than baseball in their life.

"You can't eat baseballs," he said.

LETTERS:

From Page 4

Secretary; Michael Lackey, Web site coordinator (big thanks to Mr. Lackey!); Jeff Anderson, contributions coordinator; Michael Cox, special events coordinator; and Phillip Schulte, membership coordinator.

Thank you all.

Finally, on behalf of the outgoing officers of the MSSU CIS Club, I would like to thank the faculty of the CIS department for all of the support they have given us. Special recognition is due to our faculty advisors, Steven Schiavo and Hartford Tunnell. Also, our sincere thanks go to the departments of criminal justice and biology for their cooperation, both past and future. Thanks to the Accounting Club for mentorship and model. And most importantly, thanks to the CIS Club members and CIS students who made all of this possible, and for whom this all came about.

Courtney Goff
Publicity Coordinator
CIS Club

Visiting alum thanks kind-hearted student

As an alumni, I occasionally like to visit the MSSU campus to see my favorite faculty members. Friday, April 9 was one of those days.

The weather was beautiful when I left Monett, but it changed for the worse when I reached Southern.

I wasn't dressed for the rain but decided to walk from Matthews Hall to Hearnes Hall anyway. By the time I reached Billingsly Student Center, I was soaked and cold.

Luckily for me, I met a very friendly student, Noelle, who was headed toward Billingsly. She actually turned back and walked me to Hearnes, holding her umbrella over my head the entire way.

This random act of kindness made my day.

Since I probably will never see Noelle again, I'd like to publicly thank her for the nice gesture. I'll be sure and help someone in need as repayment.

Larry Williams
MSSU Graduate
1998

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Players sprint to compete in nationals

BY JEREMIAH COOK
Staff Writer

By the time the Missouri Southern women's outdoor track and field team steps onto the track to compete in the MIAA conference meet, it will have competed in at least nine meets over the course of its season.

The Lions have many things they believe are going their way right now.

"Our distance runners continue to improve in what are difficult conditions for them to run in," said Patty Vavra, head coach. "If we could get a perfect day here pretty soon, we could really have a chance for them to bring their times down."

Those conditions are the wind and the rain that accompany the transition from winter to spring in Southwest Missouri.

Southern currently has several members of its squad eligible to compete in the national event.

As of April 18, the Lions have five people qualified in nine events.

Junior distance runner Ashley Caffey has provisional marks in both the 5,000-meter run and the 3,000-meter run and is ranked in the top 25 in the nation in both events.

Junior thrower Danee Jones is ranked seventh in the discus, 14th in the shot put, and 13th in the hammer throw.

Senior distance runner Jen Noelken is 19th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and sophomore jumper Dionne Prince is ranked seventh in the triple jump. Senior Mary Still rounds out the group, ranked 15th in the 200-meter dash, where she is less than a second behind the top-ranked runner and first in the 400-meter hurdles by almost two seconds.

Going into the last part of their season, the Lions will be modifying their workouts in order to be in better shape for the conference meet.

"This is the time of year when we'll begin to cut back on the volume of the workouts but increase the intensity and the speed and try to really peak for the conference outdoor meet," Vavra said.

The Lions compete Saturday in Tulsa at the Tulsa Invitational and Friday through Saturday in the Drake Relays in Des Moines.

SAFE

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Missouri Southern's catcher Kristin Jennings retrieves a ball thrown from outfield during the April 17 game against Northwest Missouri State University. The game was the last home game for the Lions.

Lions work to improve

BY JEREMIAH COOK
Staff Writer

With three meets left until the MIAA conference championships, the Missouri Southern men's outdoor track and field team knows it does not have a lot of time left to improve.

Over the course of the season, the Lions have posted times and distances they have worked to continually improve. Seven of the team's members have qualified for a chance to compete in the national meet in eight events.

Senior distance runner Brian Lyons is fourth nationally in the 5,000-meter run and 16th in the 1,500-meter run, and junior distance runner Paul Koehler is ranked 10th in the 5,000-meter run.

Sophomore pole vaulter Matt Campbell is the top-ranked vaulter in the nation, and junior Kyle Rutledge is ranked 13th in the same event.

Senior thrower Arley Smith is ranked twice, holding eighth in the discuss and third in the hammer throw, and junior Mika Alahaivala is ranked first in the nation in the javelin throw by more than eight feet.

As good as the Lions have been, they also know they could be better.

"We will overcome," said Tom Rutledge, head coach. "We will establish ourselves and get there. The price to pay for greatness is awesome."

"We've got a lot of guns that we didn't have in the indoor season," said Brian Roe, freshman runner. "And we're only getting stronger."

One bright spot for the Lions has been the performance of two of the runners as of late in the 800-meter event.

Senior Thomas Quaid and Roe have both come on strong as of late, and the team thinks, if things go well, the two runners will give them an added boost when it comes time for the conference meet.

"Brian Roe is probably one of the strongest freshmen that I have ever seen," Rutledge said. "He is really starting to come on and he's a very exciting person to watch. Thomas Quaid has a lot of experience and is really helping to bring him along."

Rutledge believes weather and other circumstances allowing, Roe and Quaid could finish as the top two in the 800-meter run in the conference this season.

Up next for the Lions is Saturday at the Tulsa Invitational in Tulsa.

LION STATS

Baseball

April 17 Results

MSSU (6)

Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Bronson	4	1	1	1
Catanzaro	3	2	1	1
Hughes	5	0	2	3
Taylor	5	0	0	1
Molden	5	0	3	0
Schiller	4	0	0	0
L. Lawver	3	0	0	0
Lallemand	1	2	0	0
Knight	1	0	0	0
Brown	0	0	0	0
Velliquette	2	1	1	0
J. Lawver	0	0	0	0
Bates	0	0	0	0

WU (14)

Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Sissom	4	3	1	0
DeForest	2	0	0	0
Wild	2	3	2	1
Head	5	3	4	3
Schmidt	4	1	1	1
Koontz	4	1	3	4
Wachtler	5	0	2	1
Hammersmith	5	0	1	0
Soltice	5	0	0	0
Clurman	3	3	1	0
Stos	0	0	0	0
Loschke	0	0	0	0
Barkemeyer	0	0	0	0
Raines	0	0	0	0

MSSU	002	040	000
WU	200	235	20X

Golf

April 19-20
@ MIAA Tournament

MSSU (4/7)	(910)
Player	Points
Koehler	223
Watts	229
Sinksen	230
Stockholm	233
Askvik	236

Southern Schedule

April 23 — Baseball 3 p.m. against Emporia State University

April 23 — Tennis 1 p.m.@ Emporia State University

April 24 — Baseball noon against Emporia State University

April 24 — Men's, Women's outdoor track and field at University of Tulsa Invitational

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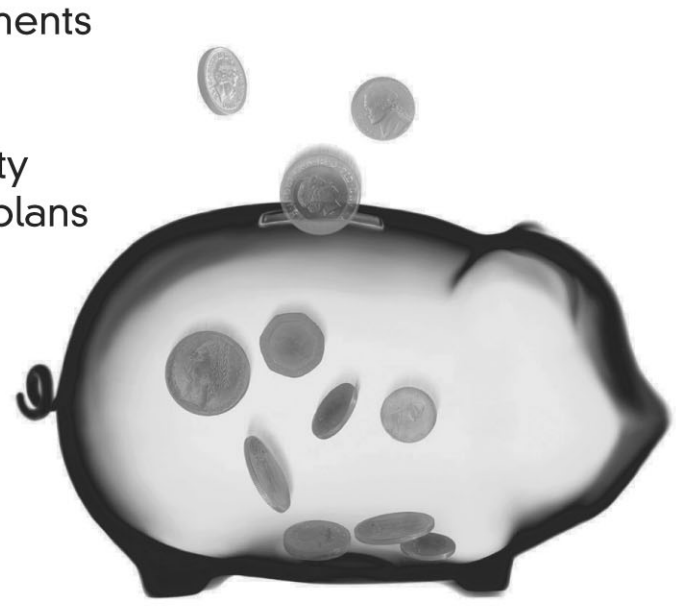

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(Top) Soo Yeon Cho, 17 years old from the Maryland, competes during the semi-finals of the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition. Cho was selected as a finalist in the junior division.

Adam Fast/The Chart

(Right) Elaine Corwin, Neosho resident, along with her husband Mike, serve as the host family for Cho during her stay at the competition. This is the second time the Corwins were the host family for Cho.

Philip Martin/The Chart

Philip Martin/The Chart

Cho will graduate from high school a year early and will attend The Juilliard School of Music in August. Cho practices eight hours a day.

Crescendo in Family Dynamics

MSIPC brings family together, again

FAMILY:

From Page 1

"It adds a lot of excitement," Mike said.

Elaine said Cho, two years ago, would practice from 7 a.m. until approximately 10:30 p.m. Even though they tried to get her to take a break, Cho would not.

"We couldn't get her to quit for an ice cream cone or anything," Elaine said. "She just wanted to practice."

"Yeah, we bribed her with ice cream and that didn't work," Mike said. "It's incredible the amount of perseverance and dedication they have to practice."

All the time spent practicing has paid off for Cho, who was accepted to The Juilliard School for Music on April 1.

Cho said when she found out about her acceptance she began to cry.

Mike is proud of Cho and her accomplishments.

"Some of them (the competitors) are really smart," he said. "Like our young lady is going to graduate from high school a year early before she goes to Juilliard. She managed to do all that studying and practicing eight hours a day. We know of no one that can do that and has that kind of dedication."

Because she received her letter of acceptance on April Fools' Day, Cho's brother decided to pull a joke on her.

Instead of telling her she was accepted, he told her she was denied.

Cho started to break down while at school and almost began to cry. When she found out he was lying to her, she did break down and cry, not because of the stress, but because she was happy to get in.

"It was my dream school, when I got the letter I was so happy I was crying," she said. "I'm really excited about that."

Now that the tryouts for Juilliard are over, Cho is more relaxed than she was two years ago. Elaine has noticed the difference in her playing and her attitude from the last competition.

"It's been fun to watch her develop," she said. "She was good last time. She's exceptional now. I think she's more relaxed, because she auditioned for Juilliard and three other places and she has been in other competitions. To my untrained ear, she's better."

Elaine said she is amazed at how the competition brings together competitors who have known each other for a while.

She said the competitor from Bulgaria, Ruzha Sémova who is staying with a friend of Elaine's in Neosho, knows Cho's cousin.

This is because the cousin plays the piano and competes.

She said two years ago, when Cho was staying with her, Cho's parents met the owners of Orient House, who have the same last name.

"They got along very well [two years ago]," Elaine said.

"We had lunch there today (April 20), they all chatted about. It's nice to see, and it's amazing. You know, a small world, and it really is."

She said Cho's mother met one of the competitors mother at the last competition.

The competitor is staying with the Cho's of Neosho.

At the last competition, many of Korean competitors had been attending the same school, and when they came to Joplin they were able to know someone in Missouri.

"It was interesting to see all these people come to the United States, and they run into each other in the Hastings bookstore," Elaine said.

She said she likes the fact there is an international competition in the "middle of nowhere."

"It's neat to have this international competition in Joplin, Mo.," Elaine said. "I've lived here for 13 years, and before that I lived in Iowa, and you don't think of something international out in the Midwest."

Elaine said she became a host family during the last competition when she was asked to do it.

"Last time, I had a friend who was on the board who asked if we would do that and I said 'yes,'" she said.

"We went to one meeting beforehand and wrote back and forth with Soo."

To be a good host family, she said it's necessary to keep in contact with the competitor. It was easy for the Corwins because they have been in contact with Cho for the past two years.

"Before they come you need to be in touch with them to be sure, number one what time they are coming in on the plane and a little bit about their likes and dislikes," Elaine said.

Elaine said she recommends being a host family to anyone.

She said all it takes is to have an open bedroom and some free time to enjoy another culture and music.